

KENYA EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

NEWSLETTER #2

VOLUME 2, NUMBER ONE, July 2009

President's Message

With four board members in Kenya for varying lengths of time in the past year, the work of KEEF continues to be hands-on and all volunteer, which attracts donors interested in helping to educate bright, needy students in Western Kenya.

KEEF continues to grow as 32 sponsors (some sharing, some supporting more than one student) are now opening the doors to the future for a total of 64 secondary and post secondary students. Nine new sponsors have also become involved this year.

A total of over \$50,000 has been paid directly to schools in 2009 for tuition and board on behalf of our scholars. To compound the challenge of receiving an education, the cost of living in Kenya has tripled since the Kenyan clashes of 2008. This puts an enormous burden on students' families and on their schools. We greatly appreciate the additional donations that we have received. These have added to the educational assistance that we provide students.

At our recent AGM we welcomed Maureen Howard as a new member to our board; she has agreed to take on the role of secretary on our executive. Two others who attended expressed interest in KEEF's work will join us next year after they have sponsored a student for a year.

A successful fundraiser was held recently at the Qualicum Beach home of Verdelle and Bill Wilson. Alinda Ware spoke about Kenya and KEEF.

An article was submitted to the B.C. retired teachers magazine, "Postscript." It resulted in a scholarship from a retired educator now living in Ontario.

Our website www.kenyaeducation.org hosted by our technical liaison, Patricia Crossley and her son Paul, continues to draw compliments.

The words of our grateful students in letters to their sponsors tell it best: from Eric, a secondary

student, "Once again we have come to the end of this year and we have to thank God for that. I would like to say thank you for the support you gave me last year and for the support that you always give me. I hope through these subjects I will be able to achieve my ambition of becoming a doctor."

And this charming and sincere comment from Johnstone, a post secondary student, "I love and respect you for the support you give me and will try my level best never to annoy you."

David wrote, "I thank KEEF for offering me a scholarship. It is only with their help that I can succeed in my academics. I swear to work hard to achieve all my goals in life."

The many hours of work by dedicated volunteers is responsible for the success of any organization and this is certainly the hallmark of KEEF Canada.

Nancy Carson, KEEF President

KEEF - Review of a Successful Year

- 6 new secondary students assisted
- A bicycle donated from discretionary funds to a KEEF student attending day school. (see Vincent's story below)
- Small office space with furniture donated to KEEF at Sheywe Guest House, Kakamega. This has made record keeping much easier. Thank you, Tatuli Mbasu
- Desk top computer donated to Kenyan office. Thank you, Bonnie Sutherland (Afretech).
- Allan Khatsio, the first KEEF student to graduate from high school, achieved an A- and will be eligible to continue on to university. Allan was sponsored by the RR Smith Foundation.





**VINCENT ALILA,
DAY SCHOOL STUDENT**

NUMBER ONE IN A CLASS OF 56 Vincent is a Form 2 student at St. Beda's Secondary School

He was frequently sent home from primary school for lack of fees. After his parents were divorced he went to live with his grandmother. He did very well in his KCPE

exams and was called to a boarding school but could not afford the fees. He writes "Then a Good Samaritan offered to pay my form one fees and I became very happy."

JEFFERSON MAINA is a new university computer science student this year



As you can see he is quite an artist and hopes to combine his love of art with computer applications. Like many high school students he found himself deep in debt for fees for high school and could not access money to get started in university. With a one time gift from a KEEF

sponsor he was able to start school in June. He will become eligible for a HELB loan later this year and will then be able to self fund his education.

Please send this newsletter on to anyone you think may be interested.

Donations can be sent by cheque to:
Margaret (Peg) Klesner
Suite 904
2135 Argyle Avenue, West Vancouver, B.C.
V7V 1A5

Please check out website at www.kenyaeducation.org for pictures and information.



KEEF STUDENTS, 2008

We chose this year's students in difficult circumstances. For several weeks in January we kept close to home and even later, travel sometimes became scary. Even so, the students found us and we chose the ones we thought would do well. One young man's mother sells fruit in the local market which meant the odd mango in appreciation!

The rewards came in April when the students brought in their marks for the first term. One of our boys at Kakamega High School was number one out of 351 students! Another at Mukumu scored equally well. The rest are doing well. The end of year marks will be very important and we hope the sponsors will continue to fund these very deserving young people. As well as students in regular schools KEEF sponsors are also assisting a young girl in a deaf school and a young boy at "Daisy School", a school for the disabled.

These are only two examples of the young men we were able to assist this year. Both are A students from poor families who would not have been able to further their education without help from KEEF.

Your donations no matter how small are useful – donations over \$20 receive a tax receipt.

Comments or questions about this newsletter are welcomed. Please email me at:

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